

The news of the young prince's arrival being communicated to the king, he is very angry that a mortal should presume to enter his country and lay claim to his daughter ; he therefore orders that he be made to ride upon some wild horses and elephants, and the young prince acquitting himself surprisingly well in training them, the king promises to give him his daughter, if he can shoot an arrow from one of the bows of the palace. The prince shoots an arrow with ease and dexterity ; but the king insists upon another trial—he obliges the prince to select the little finger of Manan from amongst those of her sisters, which are thrust to him through a screen ; this also the prince does, by the assistance of the King of Nats.

ART. II.—*On the Bora Chung, or Ground Fish of Bootan.*

*To the Secretaries to the Asiatic Society.*

GENTLEMEN,—The following account of the *Bora Chung* or as it may be called, the Ground-Fish of Bootan, is so extraordinary, as to be worthy I think of the attention of the Asiatic Society, for so far as I know it is new. I am indebted for it to Mr. Russell, of Rungpore.

The *Bora Chung* is a thick cylindrical fish, with a body somewhat like a pike but thicker, with a snub nose, and grows from three pounds weight, to a length of two feet. The colour is olive green, with orange stripes ; and the head speckled with crimson spots. It is eaten by the natives of Bootan, and said to be delicious.

The *Bora Chung* is found in Bootan, on the borders of the Chail Nuddee, which falls into the river Dhallah, a branch of which runs into the Teestah at Paharpore. It is not immediately on the brink of the water, however, that the fish is caught, but in perfectly dry places, in the middle of a grass jungle, sometimes as far as two miles from the river. The natives search this jungle till they find a hole, about four or five inches in diameter, and into it they insert a stick to guide their digging a well, which they do till they come to the water ; a little cow-dung is then thrown into the water, when the fish rises to the surface. Mr. Russell has known them to be from six to nineteen feet deep in the earth.

Mr. Russell describes their other habits as not less curious. They are invariably found in pairs, two in each hole ; never more nor less. He has not met with any less than three to four pounds ; but as before said, they grow to the length of two feet. He has seen them go along the ground, with a serpentine motion, very fast, though the natives say they never voluntarily rise above the surface. In some

places they are very common, and live a long time when taken out of the water, by being sprinkled over occasionally with that fluid. One which Mr. Russell thinks to be the female, is always smaller, and not so bright in colour as the other.

I regret this account is so imperfect, especially as I have seen the fish, for when I was at Titalya, in March last, Mr. Russell very kindly sent me two of them. Unfortunately I was on the eve of starting with my family for the hills, and in the bustle of packing up, I had not time to examine them, intending on my arrival here to describe, and preserve the specimens for the Society. And still more unfortunately, I was unable to convey them up here, having been for want of carriage obliged to leave even many of the necessaries of life behind. Mr. Russell undertook to bring them with him; but one of them died and was thrown away in the plains, and the other made its escape from the vessel in which it was confined at Punkahbarry. He has promised to procure other specimens, so I hope soon to have the pleasure of sending some to the Society's Museum.

J. T. PEARSON.

DARJEELING, 10th July, 1839.

ART. III.—*Extracts from official records, with descriptive details regarding the new Nizamut Palace of Moorshedabad—erected by Colonel D. M'LEOD, Chief Engineer of Bengal.*

A superb model of the Moorshedabad Palace is now displayed in the apartments of the Asiatic Society, erected on a scale of half an inch to the foot; it forms an object of perhaps greater interest to the spectator, than would the noble edifice it represents. In the model we have all the details of the structure at once exposed and intelligible. To the amateur architect, as indeed to the general visitor, the documents we now publish, will doubtless prove an instructive and valuable lesson in classical architecture. We should not omit to mention, that every part of the model is of native workmanship, and of the most perfectly beautiful execution.—EDS.

*To the Military Board.*

*Political Dept.*

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Honorable the Deputy Governor of Bengal, to transmit for your information and guidance, the accompanying copy of a correspondence with the Committee appointed to report on the Nizamut buildings at Moorshedabad.